# RERUN NEBRASKA'S REUSE NETWORK

# THE BEGINNING

- Started with Reuse Summit in 2013
- Follow-up Video Conference
- Development of two workgroups
  - Refurbishment
  - Marketing

# REFURBISHMENT WORK GROUP

- Focused on developing guidelines for reusing equipment
  - Sanitations
  - Repair
- Identifying resources for repair and sanitation
- Strategies to build resources

# MARKETING WORK GROUP

- Focused on outreach and education
  - What is AT?
  - What is reuse?
  - Why is AT reuse important? What are the benefits?
- Developed flier for outreach purposes
- Published Earth Day Newsletter, with success stories, in April 2014
- Developed strategies to identify resources and build the network
  - Reuse Tab
- And gave the Network a name.....

# **RERUN: THE REUSE NETWORK**



# WHAT IS RERUN?

- The Nebraska ReUSE Network: A network of agencies and resources, across Nebraska, focused on raising awareness of reuse, promote benefits and availability, and reconnecting people to the equipment they need.
- ReRUN's goal is to increase access to assistive technology through:
  - Relocating Equipment-Facilitating the transfer of equipment from one individual to another and house donated equipment until it can be matched to a new user.
  - Refurbishing Equipment-Store, repair, and redistribute equipment when needed.
  - Recycling Equipment-Assist in the reuse of parts and recycling of equipment no longer reusable.
  - Making referrals-Connect individuals to local equipment, transportation, and repair resource and programs.

# WHAT IS AT?

Assistive technology is any device, gadget, hardware, software, or durable medical equipment that is used to help people improve their capabilities.

#### **COMMONLY REUSED AT**

- Wheelchairs
- Walkers
- Standers
- Communication equipment
- Lifts
- Vehicle modifications
- Aluminum ramps
- ADL equipment

#### WHY REUSE AT?

- Nebraskans with a disability often need to replace assistive equipment, but may lack the resources to purchase new or replacement equipment.
- Others need a short term solution due to an injury, surgery, or illness.
- In case of a disaster equipment is needed to replace lost or damaged items
- Reuse benefits the environment Reusing equipment means items are not thrown away, lessening the negative impact on the environment.

#### WHO IS INVOLVED IN RERUN?

- Non profits
- Hospitals/Health Care Organizations
- Disability Organizations
- Service Providers
- Vendors
- State Agencies
- Volunteers
- And you!

#### WHAT WE'VE DONE SO FAR

- Raised awareness, and increased involvement
- Worked to increase reuse
- One partner reports facilitating the reuse of 57 items in 2014. Items such
  as c-pap machines, nebulizers, hospital beds, and other DME equipment.
- Another partner reports matching 204 devices to new users in 2014.
   Items such as walkers, canes, wheelchairs, lifts and other personal care devices.
- ATP helped 343 individuals obtain AT through reuse in 2014
  - 200 individuals were assisted in 2013
  - Reported cost savings in 2013-\$93,512.00
  - Reported cost savings in 2014-\$76,715.81

# A NEW DIRECTION

#### **Lessons Learned**

- Not one agency can do it all
- The resources are out there, at the local level
- Went from trying to build the resources to building partnerships



# A NEW DIRECTION

- The question is not "Do you want to do reuse?" It's "What reuse activity can you do?"
  - Storage
  - Sanitation
  - Repair
  - Transport
  - Donations
  - Referrals
- Outreach to new groups
  - Transport companies
  - Healthcare facilities/companies
  - Other non-AT reuse groups. Recyclers
  - And More!



# A NEW DIRECTION

- The Work Groups are now one Leadership Group, focused on:
  - Developing new partnerships
  - Supporting existing and growing partnerships
  - Outreach and Education
    - Summits
    - Trainings



# THE RERUN BEST PRACTICES MANUAL

- Guidelines for:
  - Reuse activities
  - Accepting equipment
  - Transporting devices
  - Sanitation
  - Refurbishment
  - Reassigning equipment
  - Tracking and reporting outcomes



# RERUN BEST PRACTICES MANUAL

- A working document
- Updated on an annual basis
- Resource and support for new and existing partners



# **MOVING AHEAD**

- 2015 Summit and Strategic planning
- Identifying and developing partners
- Develop way to track partners and local networks
- Building the network
- Putting reuse into action
- Reporting outcomes
- Leadership group will:
  - Identify and assist with training and support needs

